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NATIONAL

REVIEW OF KOSYGIN ANTHOLOGY

Moscow VOPROSY ISTORII KPSS in Russian No 7, Jul 79 pp 3-12

[Review of two-volume selection of A. N. Kosygin's speeches and articles: "Soviet People's Selfless Labor--Basis of Communist Building"]

[Text] The idea of Soviet people's selfless labor as the basis of communist building permeates the entire material of the two-volume collection of the speeches and articles of Aleksey Nikolayevich Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers.* The material published in the two-volume collection spans the period from 1939 through 1978 and illustrated the most important stages of the history of the country of the soviets in the last four decades: the building of the foundations of socialism in the USSR, the Great Patriotic War, the restoration and development of the economy in the postwar years, the creation of a mature socialist society and the building of communism.

It is natural that a central place in the two-volume work is assigned the material of the last 14 years, during which time A. N. Kosygin has headed the USSR Council of Ministers.

In his speeches and articles A. N. Kosygin analyzes in depth the questions raised by the 23d, 24th and 25th CPSU congresses and Central Committee plenums, examines the principal directions of the USSR's economic and social development in the Eighth, Ninth and 10th five-year plans and reveals the party's multifaceted work to implement the Peace Program and strengthen the concord and cooperation of the peoples of all countries and continents.

Everything that has been achieved by our people, who have built a powerful socialist state in a short time, is linked with the activity of the Communist Party.

*See A.N. Kosygin, "K velikoy tseli. Izbrannyye rechi i stat'i" [Toward the Great Goal. Selected Speeches and Articles], vols 1-2, Moscow, 1979. Subsequent references to this publication are given in the body of the item.

The Soviet people's entire heroic path is illumined by the light of its ideas. As the directing force of society, the CPSU is guiding its creative energy toward lofty goals. The highest meaning of the party's activity lies in service of the people. And Soviet people respond to it with profound trust in and complete support for the domestic and foreign policy of the party and the activity of its Central Committee and Politburo headed by Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. "The people's unanimous firm support for the political course of our Lenin Party," L. I. Brezhnev observed in his address to the voters of Moscow's Baumanskiy Electoral Okrug, "is a reliable foundation for advancement and a guarantee that the outlined plans will be realized. They will be realized by the will of the party and Soviet people's labor--and in the name of their well-being and happiness."*

The outstanding achievement of the Soviet people and the result of their selfless labor is the building in our country of the developed socialist society. The developed socialist society was built in the USSR as a result of the rapid growth of the scale of production and the profound qualitative changes in the Soviet economy, in the social structure of the socialist society and in the people's living standard. "This," A. N. Kosygin observes, "is the most important result of the country's social and economic development along the path of October and a result of the Soviet people's great constructive activity and the wise Leninist policy of the Communist Party" (vol 2, pp 521-522).

Familiarity with the material of the two-volume collection enables us to acquire a clear idea of the principal features of the developed socialist society. First, it is the large-scale harmonious development of the production forces and the maximum and rational use of natural resources and also the inexhaustible reserves embedded in social production and its high dynamism, which is strikingly expressed in the rapid and qualitative changes in all sectors of production, in an improvement in the structure of Soviet industry and in an acceleration of the processes of the concentration of production and improvement of its organization.

Second, the developed socialist society is characterized by the maturity of socialist production relations, which took shape on the basis of the complete supremacy of public ownership in all spheres of the economy and as the result of the absence of exploiter classes. The developed socialist society has its own political superstructure inherent therein--the state of all the people, which embodies the profoundest democratism. The comprehensive and harmonious shaping of sociopolitical living standards is occurring at the current stage of the country's development. As a result of the community of fundamental interests of all the working people and of the development of relations of a new type--of fraternal friendship and cooperation--between the socialist nations and nationalities a new historical

*L. K. Brezhnev, "Address to the Voters of Moscow's Baumanskiy Electoral Okrug," PRAVDA 3 March 1979.

community of people--the Soviet people--has emerged in the country. A socioeconomic, ideological-political and cultural-moral unity insuring the growth of the processes of the further rapprochement of all classes and social groups and the achievement of complete social homogeneity in the long term is inherent in this community.

Third, the developed socialist society is characterized by the unswerving growth of the people's material well-being, culture and education. This is secured by the intensive development of the production forces in the Soviet Union and the improvement of socialist production relations. It may be said with complete justification that only mature socialism creates the essential conditions for a fuller solution of the task of an upsurge in the people's material and cultural living standard.

And, finally, fourth, the developed socialist society is distinguished by communist ideology's profound penetration of people's consciousness and a further strengthening of society's moral-political and ideological unity. V. I. Lenin said that "communism must be accessible to the working masses as a thing of its own."* This proposition constitutes the core of the party's ideological work, whose central task is the molding in the working people of a Marxist-Leninist world outlook, high ideological-political attributes and the standards of communist morality. As the CPSU Central Committee observed in its well-known decree "Further Improvement of Ideological and Political Education Work,"** at the current stage of communist building, when the process of social development has accelerated, the scale of economic building has grown, a transition to intensive methods of economic planning is underway and Soviet people's education and culture are growing rapidly and when the principles of peaceful coexistence are being asserted in the international arena while at the same time the ideological struggle is expanding and growing more complex, the significance of ideological work and the entire party's attention thereto are increasing immeasurably.

The Communist Party constantly aspires to insure that each working person of the country of soviets think on a state scale and act as a statesman who understands the interests of the working class and all working people of the country as a whole.

The revolutionary creativity of the masses and the growing constructive energy and initiative of Soviet people under the conditions of mature socialism are manifested in all spheres of the life of Soviet society.

A. N. Kosygin shows convincingly in his works how the Soviet people's creative genius in the economic sphere is most strikingly expressed in the high and stable rate of development of the socialist economy. The principal

*V. I. Lenin, "Poln. sobr. soch." [Complete Works], vol 41, p 408.

**PRAVDA 6 May 1979.

economic task of communist building is being accomplished in practice under the conditions of the developed socialist society--communism's material-technical base is being created. The working people's creative, constructive might is geared toward the accomplishment of this magnificent task. "Thousands and thousands of striking examples of labor's frontrunners," A. N. Kosygin notes, "and remarkable initiatives of the production collectives in all sectors of our economy testify that the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress, which express our party's collective will, have become the vital concern of the whole people, their patriotic duty and the concern of their mind and heart" (vol 2, p 527).

In elaborating the economic policy of the developed socialist society the party highlights the pivotal problems on whose solution the success of the entire cause primarily depends. An increase in production efficiency and an improvement in the quality of all economic activity are such problems today.

The policy of efficiency is expressed in the fact that it is planned to raise labor productivity in the 10th Five-Year Plan in the economy as a whole by 27 percent compared with the 23 percent in 1971-1975. This is equivalent to a saving of the labor of 26 million workers. It is a task of tremendous importance. For its accomplishment it is necessary to increase the capital-labor ratio 37 percent in industry and 59 percent in agriculture. Some 85-90 percent of the increase in national income will be obtained thanks to an increase in social labor productivity (see vol 2, p 421).

A quite considerable precondition of the connection of the CPSU's economic policy at the current stage with its long term is the colossal increase in the scale and potential of the economy. Total industrial output had increased 43 percent in 1975 compared with 1970, which corresponded fully to the directives of the 24th party congress. The long-term comprehensive program of the development of agriculture formulated by the party was consistently implemented in the Ninth Five-Year Plan. Its material-technical base is being decisively reinforced, a great deal of work is being performed on land improvement, and the specialization of agricultural production is being extended.

A. N. Kosygin repeatedly emphasizes in his works that the party's magnificent plans can only be realized by way of the dynamic and proportional development of social production and its increased efficiency, the acceleration of scientific-technical progress, the growth of labor productivity and the utmost improvement in quality indicators in all links of the economy and in job. He points out here that the main emphasis in our national economic plans is put on an extension of the intensification of production, which is acquiring paramount significance today.

The material of the two-volume collection dealing with questions of the party's economic strategy is invariably imbued with Lenin's idea that when a correct policy has been formulated, success depends primarily on organization. Whence the author's so unremitting attention to various aspects

of management of the economy in the broadest meaning of the word and primarily to securing a considerable improvement in planning, the more adept use of economic incentives and levers and a further improvement in the organizational structure and methods of management (see vol 1, pp 65, 93-95, 124, 165-169 and 252-255; and vol 2, pp 41-50, 115-123, 153-155, 449-450, 531 and 621). "Questions of labor organization and production management," A. N. Kosygin writes, "must constantly be at the center of the attention of the plant or factory manager, shop chief, kolkhoz chairman and sovkhoz director. Only an enterprising, truly scientific organization of production can yield the necessary results and involve the tremendous internal resources of the national economy..." (vol 1, p 526).

The party's scientifically substantiated policy and its realistic plans are profoundly understood by the working class, kolkhoz peasantry, intelligentsia and all working people of our country, are warmly supported by them and are being implemented through their heroic labor. "...Living, creative socialism," V. I. Lenin pointed out, "is the creation of the people's masses themselves."* This proposition, which is confirmed by the entire course of social development in our country, is suffused with particular content in the period of the building of communism, when, together with the rapid growth of the production forces, there is a growth in the level of the culture, education and consciousness of millions of people and an increase in their political and labor activeness. The enthusiasm of the Soviet people--the builder of communism--is strikingly expressed in the socialist competition for the ahead-of-schedule fulfillment of the plans of economic and cultural building. To produce more products of better quality and with less expenditure--this is the combat motto of the participants in the competition and this is what constitutes the very foundation of the counterplans being drawn up by the collectives of many enterprises. The party is adopting effective measures for the further development and improvement of the organization of socialist competition and displaying concern to insure that under the conditions of the scientific-technical revolution it play a qualitatively new part in the development of the economy and the education of the working people.

Under current conditions increasing significance in an increase in social production efficiency is attached to the intensification of the economy. And it is perfectly natural that problems of the intensification of economic development and the high efficiency and quality of work occupy a central place in the two-volume work "K velikoy tseli." A. N. Kosygin comprehensively examines questions connected with the achievements of science and technology and the forms and methods of their introduction in production and signposts the paths of an increase in labor productivity, the rational use

*V. I. Lenin, "Poln. sobr. soch.," vol 35, p 57.

of resources and an improvement in product quality (see vol 1, pp 35-56, 68, 77, 90, 108, 144-159, 166-167, 207, 234, 319 and 367; and vol 2, pp 15, 18, 116, 150, 166, 239, 413-414, 527 and 614).

The intensification of the economy and the final results of work are inconceivable without a resolute struggle against mismanagement, irresponsibility and losses. In many of the speeches and articles in the two-volume work we repeatedly encounter the author's idea that the question of losses is not only an economic but also a big political question. It has a direct influence on the mood and labor activeness of the masses. The rational use of everything at our economy's disposal is a task of paramount importance. And whence the duty of the party, soviet and economic-planning organizations to eliminate unproductive outlays and losses in every way and to strive for the economical expenditure of all material and labor resources.

"The course set by the party toward production intensification," A. N. Kosygin said in the report at the 24th party congress, "determines the need for a considerable increase in social labor productivity, economies in raw materials and goods, an improvement in the use of production capital, an increase in the efficiency of capital investments on the basis of the introduction of new equipment, the scientific organization of production and an improvement in the methods of management of the economy" (vol 2, p 19).

A. N. Kosygin devotes exclusive attention in his works to an analysis of the problems connected with making science a direct production force and its role in the building of communism's material-technical base (see vol 1, pp 86, 93, 103, 113, 138, 180, 232, 254, 318, 368, 497 and 527-528; and vol 2, pp 12, 18-19, 101, 166-167, 395, 422, 522 and 616). "Our party and government draw the attention of all science workers," the author emphasizes, "to the fact that the role of science in the country has grown increasingly and that all spheres of our life and activity have developed on the basis of science. It is essential to bring science even closer to practice in order that its achievements may be used in the economy with far greater efficiency and within a shorter time" (vol 1, p 148).

The higher the role of science in the life of our society, the greater the demands made on it. The 25th CPSU Congress defined as science's main tasks the extension and intensification of research into the regularities of nature and society and an increase in scientists' contribution to a solution of the urgent problems of the building of communism's material-technical base, the acceleration of scientific-technical progress and the growth of production efficiency, a rise in the people's well-being and culture and the molding of the working people's communist world outlook. The "Main Directions of the Development of the USSR Economy in 1976-1980" provide for the further development of basic and applied research in the sphere of the social, natural and technical sciences and clearly define the main directions of scientific quest.

The party calls on the scientists to concentrate attention on the most important problems of scientific-technical and social progress on whose solution the successes of the economy, culture and science itself depend to a considerable extent and provide for the further development of research opening fundamentally new paths and possibilities for the transformation of the country's production forces and the creation of the equipment and technology of the future. The material of the two-volume work shows that an increase in the efficiency and quality of scientific research has been put forward as a central task under contemporary conditions. This can only be achieved on the basis of a close union with practice, whence the party's instruction to the scientists: perfect the forms of science's ties to production and assist in every way the use of scientific achievements in the economy. The practical implementation of scientific ideas is today no less important than their elaboration. However, this remains a bottleneck in many sectors. Consequently, the creation of science-production and scientific-technical associations and a promotional organizations and subdivisions merits even greater attention.

The valuable experience of a number of scientific collectives which proposed and comprehensively tested various methods of linking their efforts with those of industrial workers deserves great support and extensive dissemination. It is primarily a question of, for example, the joint counterplans practiced by the Muscovites; the competition of Leningrad institutes and enterprises for a comprehensive solution of important economic problems and for a reduction in the time taken to develop and introduce progressive technology; the parallel research and industrial work performed in the Arc Welding Institute imeni Ye. O. Paton and at the "Uralsmash"; the joint organization of research subdivisions by the academic establishments and industry in Novosibirsk and Minsk; and so forth. Each of these initiatives is contributing in its own way to the integration of science and production.

The success of the scientific-technical revolution and its beneficent impact on the economy and all aspects of the life of society is insured not only by the efforts of the science workers but also of all participants in social production and all links of the economic mechanism. Creating conditions which contributed in full measure to the speediest passage of new ideas from invention to mass utilization in practice is a task which is profoundly party-oriented in essence.

V. I. Lenin once pointed out that "he who has the greatest technology, organization, discipline and the best machinery prevails."* A. N. Kosygin shows in his works that the successful implementation of the program of accelerated scientific-technical progress and of the full utilization of the advantages of the planned socialist economy formulated by the party leaves no doubt that it is socialism which will "prevail."

*V. I. Lenin, "Poln. sobr. soch.," vol 36, p 116.

The party's economic policy has also been constructed with consideration of Lenin's proposition that the socialist society develops in the interests of "securing the /complete/ well-being and free /comprehensive/ development of /all/ [words in slantlines in italics] members of society."⁴ Whence the Communist Party's constant policy of an unswerving rise in the people's material and cultural living standard. The struggle of the CPSU and the Soviet state for the achievement of this goal of socialist production is comprehensively reflected throughout the material of the two-volume collection.

"Fifty years ago the Soviet people embarked on implementation of the first five-year plan," A. N. Kosygin observed. "Since then our plans have become the main instrument of implementation of the economic policy of the Communist Party and the Soviet state. Everything that we outline in the plans serves the achievement of those social goals for whose sake the socialist revolution was accomplished. The main task of our plans was and remains the further development and strengthening of the new system and an unswerving rise in the people's living standard on the basis of a comprehensive upsurge of the economy" (vol 2, p 615).

Mature socialism, which was created by the labor of the people, reveals tremendous possibilities for an improvement in Soviet people's life. This determines the orientation of economic development both for the immediate and the more distant future. In his works A. N. Kosygin cites convincing facts and striking figures of the growth of the people's well-being. The material of the two-volume collection contains a comprehensive description of the wide-ranging program of social measures formulated and implemented by the Communist Party and the Soviet state. This program incorporates major measures for the further growth of the population's real income, an improvement in work and day-to-day conditions and a rapprochement of the living standards of the urban and rural populations.

Delivering the report on 4 November 1978 at the ceremonial session devoted to the 61st anniversary of the Great October, A. N. Kosygin observed that "concern for the welfare of the people is the principal concern in the activity of the Communist Party and the Soviet state. Since 1963 alone the resources allocated for current consumption and nonproduction construction have more than doubled, while the population has grown by 12 percent. Housing with an overall area of almost 1.4 billion square meters has been built in the country in this period; one out of every two Soviet citizens has improved his housing conditions" (vol 2, p 614).

The material of the two-volume collection convincingly shows how consistently the policy of a further increase in the production of consumer goods and the expansion of consumer services is being pursued. Attention is drawn here to the realization primarily of new types of consumer service aimed at alleviating housework, increasing the working people's spare time,

⁴V. I. Lenin, "Poln. sobr. soch.," vol 6, p 232.

improving recreation conditions and insuring even greater opportunities for the all-around development of the personality.

A. N. Kosygin returns repeatedly in his works to the idea that food products occupy a special place in material wealth. He points out that it is necessary to sharply increase the quality of agricultural products to solve the problem of providing the population fully with foodstuffs under contemporary conditions. It is a question of an increase in the production of strong and durum wheat and the broad assortment of groats, the quality and assortment of fruit and vegetables with different ripening times suitable for prolonged storage and for laying in for the winter period, an increase in the sugar content of the beet, the content of dry substance in tomatoes and so forth. On the other hand, the creation of capacities which would insure the timely, high-quality and comprehensive processing and shipment of agricultural products demands serious attention.

The inseparable link of the fulfillment of economic plans and the improvement of society's sociopolitical and spiritual life can be traced in A. N. Kosygin's works. Increasingly great significance is attached today to the possibilities of the cultural growth and satisfaction of the aesthetic requirements of the workers. "External living conditions," A. N. Kosygin said in his speech at the 22d CPSU Congress, "should also correspond to the wealth of our people's inner content. Good taste in the sewing of our clothing, apartments with attractive decorations, perfection of form of our houses and streets--everything should gladden the eye--the finishing, the color scheme and the correct proportions. Everywhere--at work and in the home, in the theater and on the street--Soviet man should see the attention to and concern for his interests, desires and requirements, such that everything fill people with a sense of pride in our Soviet way of life" (vol 1, p 171).

The socialist way of life--a fundamentally new and the highest type of people's social vital activity with which the history of world civilization has no analogy--has become firmly established in our country. And it is perfectly natural that the problems of the socialist way of life are reflected comprehensively and in depth in much of the two-volume work's material. The author repeatedly emphasizes that Soviet people are distinguished by profound devotion to the ideals of communism and ardent patriotism and internationalism. They combine within them profound ideological conviction and tremendous vital energy, a constant aspiration to the heights of knowledge and culture and a sense of collectivism and comradely mutual assistance. Inspired labor in the name of communism has become the content of Soviet man's entire life.

The high consciousness, moral maturity and growing level of education and culture of Soviet people condition the mass nature of labor creativity. The very rich factual material of the two-volume work consistently reveals the most diverse forms of its manifestation.

At the same time A. N. Kosygin constantly reminds us that the communist education of the working people is an intricate and prolonged process. It

demands, in particular, an effective struggle against negative phenomena and vestiges of the past in people's consciousness and behavior. The task of completely surmounting private-ownership vestiges, embezzlement, hooliganism, drunkenness, bureaucratism and indifference to man demands unification of the efforts of the party and public organizations, labor collectives and state organs.

The vast social program of a rise in the people's living standard reflects the new possibilities at the disposal of the mature socialist society. The basis of this program is the consistent intensification of production and an appreciable increase in labor productivity on the basis of an acceleration of the rate of scientific-technical progress.

The successes of the CPSU's domestic policy, the level of the USSR's economic, scientific-technical and defense potential and the political and moral unity of the Soviet socialist society are the permanent basis of the successes of the foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state. In his works A. N. Kosygin examines our achievements in the international arena in close connection with the results of domestic policy and the results of the entire Soviet people's selfless labor.

The foreign policy of our party and state is a class policy which is socialist in content and purpose. It is geared to the creation of the most propitious conditions for the Soviet people's successful constructive labor, the strengthening of the positions of the socialist countries and world socialism as a whole and the consolidation of peace and the security of the peoples, national independence, democracy and social progress.

Questions of the foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet Government and the successes and unsolved problems in realization of the Peace Program occupy a large place in A. N. Kosygin's speeches and articles. The main attention here is devoted to the further strengthening of the friendship and cooperation of the socialist states and the development of socialist economic integration. The CEMA countries are today the most dynamic and rapidly developing element of the world economy. It is noteworthy that a system of developed socialist production relations has taken shape within the CEMA framework and that there are sizable achievements in the creation of a modern material-technical base and in the formation of a progressive sectorial structure of the economy. The socialist countries have come to occupy leading world positions in a number of decisive sectors of the development of science and technology and education and culture. Perfected methods of the management of the economic organization of society corresponding to the requirements of a developed economy are being developed and introduced.

CEMA's 30 years of work represent the striking implementation in practice of the principles of proletarian, socialist internationalism. The path that has been covered by the CEMA participants eloquently confirms that an important condition of their successes is, together with national efforts, fraternal

interaction and a readiness to understand and take account of one another's interests. Comradely concern to insure the successful development not only of one's own country but of the other states of the community also--this is the highest expression of internationalism.

The communist and workers parties of the fraternal countries are fulfilling in practice Lenin's behest--struggling for the creation of relations between peoples based on "the fullest trust, a clear awareness of fraternal unity and entirely voluntary consent."*

And are not the successes scored by the CEMA countries in 30 years convincing confirmation of what has been said? CEMA's economic potential has multiplied many times over in this period. Thus the national income of the states in the council had increased 10-fold in 1978 compared with 1948, and industrial production had increased by a factor of 17. Occupying 19 percent of the territory and with 10 percent of the population, the CEMA countries have taken leading positions in the world economy. It is sufficient to say that they produce approximately one-third of the world's industrial product, that they now account for over half of the increase in industrial production and that their industrial might is greater than that of the United States and the states of West Europe together.

"Close ties of fraternity unite our country with the other countries of the world socialist system," A. N. Kosygin said in the report at the ceremonial session devoted to the 61st anniversary of the Great October. "In line with the growth of their economic potential and accumulation of varied experience the community's countries are switching to increasingly higher rungs of co-operation in all spheres. In the economic sphere we have risen in three decades from the simple coordination of reciprocal commodity supplies to the joint planning of long-term integration measures. In the sphere of political and defense cooperation our joint efforts, including our efforts within the framework of the Warsaw Pact Organization, have become even more coordinated and effective" (vol 2, pp 624-625).

The community's world-historical achievements are inseparably connected with the titanic work of the communist and workers parties on perfecting the mechanism of the fraternal countries' interaction. The monolithic alliance of Marxist-Leninist parties is the very foundation of the socialist states' fruitful cooperation and its directing and organizing force.

The material of the two-volume collection comprehensively reveals the intensiveness of the relations and contacts between the leaders of the socialist countries' Marxist-Leninist parties. The bilateral and multilateral meetings and the joint discussion of present-day global issues and domestic and foreign policy help us find the correct paths of a solution of tasks of the development of the economy and culture and determine a coordinated line in the international arena. A. N. Kosygin shows in his works the constructive role of the meetings of the Political Consultative Committee of the Warsaw Pact

*V. I. Lenin, "Poln. sobr. soch.," vol 40, p 43.

states and of the CEMA sessions. The author stresses the exceptional role in the overall system of mutual relations of the friendly meetings and talks in the Crimea between L. I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the leaders of the parties and states of the fraternal community.

The comradely exchange of the very rich and multifaceted experience of the parties directing socialist and communist building is an additional source of our strength and our advantage in the competition with the capitalist system.

An impressive picture is revealed extensively and in depth in the two-volume collection of the strengthening of the Soviet Union's traditional friendly relations with the developing countries. The basis of these relations is adherence to peace and freedom and decisive condemnation of all manifestations of aggression and domination and one country's exploitation of another.

The material of the two-volume work allows us to trace the implementation of the Peace Program formulated by the 24th and developed by the 25th party congresses. The Peace Program has become an effective factor of world politics. It is revealing to increasingly new millions of people the humanist nature of the socialist system and its capacity for saving mankind from the danger of thermonuclear war. "The bold and extensive plan of international cooperation created by the party's creative thought," A. N. Kosygin said, "signposts the correct path of the building of a new system of relations between states—a system which corresponds to the interests not of a single state and not of a narrow group of states but of all mankind and its long-term goals of peaceful and progressive development" (vol 2, p 273).

There are many difficulties, A. N. Kosygin notes in his works, in implementation of the Peace Program. The capitalist world has opponents of a relaxation of tension and short-sighted politicians campaigning for a return to the times of the "cold war." But it is not they who today determine the principal direction of the development of international relations. The tremendous successes of the USSR and other socialist countries, which A. N. Kosygin convincingly describes in the two-volume work "K velikoy tseli," and the active foreign policy course of the CPSU and the Soviet state and the fraternal parties and governments of the socialist countries, which is supported in every way by all the progressive forces of mankind, have changed the appearance of the modern world.

The pages of the two-volume work paint a magnificent panorama of the struggle of the Communist Party and the Soviet state and of Comrade L. I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, for lasting peace and for the prevention of a world thermonuclear war. The intrigues of militarism and reaction are exposed, and there is clear substantiation of the vital, urgent task—spreading détente to the military sphere, curbing the arms race and achieving real disarmament results.

The material of the two-volume work "K velikoy tseli" is imbued with revolutionary optimism and unshakable confidence in the victory of the cause of peace, democracy and socialism.

The appearance of the two-volume collection of the speeches and articles of A. N. Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, is an event of tremendous ideological-political significance. The historical path of the world's first worker-peasant state which it illustrates, the burgeoning of its economy and culture, the strengthening of its defense capability and the growth of its authority and influence in the international arena show the vitality and creative force of the Lenin Party's domestic and foreign policy.

The works of A. N. Kosygin make a big contribution to our party's further creative development of Marxist-Leninist theory and summarize the rich practice of communist creation.

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REGIONAL

INFORMATION REPORT ON BELORUSSIAN CP CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

Minsk SOVETSKAYA BELORUSSIYA in Russian 13 Sep 79 p 1 LD

[Unattributed "Information Report on Belorussian CP Central Committee Plenum"]

[Text] The Belorussian CP Central Committee 19th Plenum opened in Minsk 12 September.

The plenum listened to a report by P.M. Masherov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Belorussian CP Central Committee, "On the Activity of Republic Scientific Institutions and VUZ Party Organizations To Improve the Standard of Research Work Aimed at Accelerating Scientific and Technical Progress in the National Economy."

The following participated in the debate on the report: S.M. Shabashov, first secretary of Vitebskiy Belorussian CP Obkom; L. G. Kletskov, first secretary of Grodnenskiy Belorussian CP Obkom; I. M. Glazkov, deputy chairman of the Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers; N. A. Borisevich, president of the Belorussian SSR Academy of Sciences; G. S. Tarazevich, second secretary of Minsk Belorussian CP Obkom; T. N. Kulakovskaya, director of the Belorussian SSR Ministry of Agriculture Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemicals; S. P. Bobyr, secretary of Gomelskiy Belorussian CP Obkom; N. M. Meshkov, Belorussian SSR minister of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education; A. V. Greben, secretary of the Minsk Motor Vehicle Plant Party Committee; V. A. Belyy, rector of the Belorussian V. I. Lenin State University and vice president of the Belorussian Academy of Sciences; V. I. Boris, first secretary of Ivanovskiy Belorussian CP Raykom; L. N. Nagibovich, Belorussian SSR minister of Light Industry; V. K. Starovoytov, chairman of the imeni K. P. Orlovskogo "Rassvet" Kolkhoz in Kirovskiy Rayon; G. P. Lopato, director of the Computer Research Institute; A. A. Grebnev, secretary of the Belorussian Polytechnical Institute Party Committee; S. B. Mikhalev, director of the Research and Planning and Technological Institute of Organization and Management Techniques; L. I. Kiselevskiy, chairman of the Republic Council of Scientific and Technical Societies.

The plenum was addressed by S. G. Shcherbakov, first deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee Science and Educational Establishments Section.

V. I. Kolesnikov, sector chief at the CPSU Central Committee letters section, is participating in the plenum.

The Belorussian CP Central Committee plenum adopted a resolution on the matter under discussion.

The Belorussian CP Central Committee 19th Plenum continues today, 13 September.

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REGIONAL

RUSSIAN LANGUAGE TEACHING IN REPUBLIC SCHOOLS

Training Qualified Teachers

Moscow VESTNIK VYSSHEY SHKOLY in Russian No 7, Jul 79 pp 8-9

[Text] A great deal of attention is given in Moldavia to questions of study of the Russian language. Practically all Moldavian-school graduates have a free mastery of conversational Russian speech. For this reason many disciplines in VUZes and secondary specialized educational institutions are read in the Russian language, and in Kishinev's Medical and Agricultural institutes all teaching is conducted in it. Conferences and other measures are also conducted in the Russian language.

There is no doubt that the existence of a large number of qualified school teachers serves as a guarantee of mastery of the Russian language by the youth. The fact is that the effectiveness of their instruction depends on their system of work and educational and cultural level.

For many years now in Moldavian VUZes special attention has been given to training of teachers in Russian language and literature. This training is conducted at Kishinev University and three pedagogic institutes. A total of 108 scientific-pedagogic personnel carry out instruction in linguistic and literature-study disciplines for future teachers; the number includes 6 doctors and 58 candidates of sciences. The total number of Russian students is in excess of 3,700 persons. In 1978, there were enrolled in departments of Russian language and literature of republic VUZes 800 students (day--500) of which 360 were graduates of Moldavian schools. Moreover, teachers for elementary classes are trained at Bel'takiy Pedagogic Institute and three pedagogic schools.

At the present time roughly 4,800 teachers of Russian language and literature are working in republic schools; 91.3 percent of them have a higher education. It may be said that the problem of providing schools with highly qualified teachers of the Russian language is now practically solved.

A large part of the work of VUZes is organization of upgrading of the qualifications of teachers and instructors of VUZes, tekhnikum and schools. Constantly operating theoretical seminars have been established for young instructors. The practice of tutoring is used as an active form of expanding

knowledge. In the last two years alone, 56 instructors from *tekhnikums* and schools studied at faculties for upgrading of qualifications attached to VUZes of the country.

Research work is being actively carried on by chairs of Russian language and literature. It deals with several fundamental scientific directions: laws of language functioning and development, disputed questions of Russian grammar, methodology of literary criticism, Russian-Moldavian literary ties, interaction of languages and language contacts.

All-union conferences generalizing the experience of the union republics exert a positive influence on the organization of teaching of the Russian language and literature.

Students are widely drawn to research work. Problem scientific-research student groups, attached to chairs, are in operation. Under the guidance of scholars, specialists deepen their knowledge of the main division of linguistic and literary-study disciplines and are trained to head faculties in schools. The results of researches are included in the teaching process.

The chairs of Russian language pay much attention to familiarizing students of junior courses with independent work. A complex of obligatory exercises and assignments for all divisions of the disciplines has been prepared. Students obtain these materials at reading halls and Russian-language study rooms equipped with *linquaphone* equipment and sets of phonograph records and manuals for them.

The pedagogic practice of students is acquiring an increasingly creative and research character. The best language and literature teachers and highly qualified instructors of the chairs are placed in supervision of this. The number of theses on topical questions of Russian-language teaching methodology is growing.

It is impossible not to emphasize the important role of probationary training of graduates. To provide aid in its organization and implementation, chairs of VUZes are assigned to certain public-education departments. Each year there are held probationary trainee days and weeks during which progress of probationary work is discussed, consultations are arranged, experience is exchanged and deficiencies in the training of the specialists are revealed.

VUZ instructors are constantly providing assistance to Moldavian national schools. Councils attached to chairs at philological faculties organize joint meetings of associations of language and literature teachers and instructors at VUZes on topical questions of study of Russian language and literature. Experienced school teachers are drawn into the research work of chairs as scholarly correspondents and participate in setting up of experiments.

Quite a bit is being done in VUZes to upgrade the quality of textbooks, teaching aids and programs for Russian language and literature for Moldavian general educational schools. Instructors have prepared more than 200 school textbooks, teaching and methodical aids, which are published by the republic Lumina Publishing House.

In the long-term plan of publication of educational literature for 1976-1980, a significant place has been given to teaching aids for teacher-specialists in Russian philology of national groups. They include: "Use of Tables in the Study of Questions of Word Formation and Morphology," "A system of Work for the Morphology of the Contemporary Russian Language," "Questions of Comparative Moldavian-Russian Linguistics," "Russian Word Formation" and so on.

Advanced experience of perfecting the training-educational process is generalized and disseminated by teaching-methodological offices for higher and secondary specialized education operating under the Minvuz (Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education) of Moldavia. Inter-VUZ methodological seminars of Russian language and literature are held, there has been published a scientific-methodological collection "Russian Language and Literature in the National Groups of Moldavian VUZes," and two scientific-theoretical conferences have been held.

Much attention is being given in our country to improvement of study and teaching of the Russian language. We indicated a number of measures whose implementation would make it possible to study more deeply the Russian language and to improve the training of specialists.

At the same time, help is needed in the solution of certain questions.

At the present time, Moldavian VUZes are attached to the qualification upgrading faculties of Kalinin Pedagogic Institute and Dnepropetrovsk University. In order to take fuller account of the scientific interests and the profile of work of instructors, it would be desirable to direct our specialists both to institutes within the USSR Academy of Sciences, for example the Institute of Linguistics and the Institute of Slavic Studies and Balkanology and to the faculties of Slavic languages of Leningrad University and the Pedagogic Institute imeni A.I. Gertsen.

A larger number of work places, equipped with linguaphone equipment, is required.

It would be useful to instruct a collective of highly qualified specialists to work up sketches of teaching and visual aids for linguistic and literature-study disciplines and to solve the question of centralized production of them at a high scientific-methodological and esthetic level.

Developing Friendship, Cooperation Traditions

Moscow VESTNIK VYSSHEY SHKOLY in Russian No 7, Jul 79 pp 10-11

[Text] Owing to historical conditions in the life of the Armenian people, interest in the Russian language had its inception among Armenians more than two hundred years ago, long before the annexation of East Armenia to Russia. As early as 1788, the first bilingual dictionary was published; it was followed by a whole series of Russian-language textbooks. Many outstanding figures of the Armenian people were not only experts in the Russian language but

also its propagandists. The great Armenian educator Khachatur Abovyan—the author of "A New Theoretical and Practical Grammar of the Russian Language for Armenians"—said way back in 1838: "The purpose of studying a language is not just to obtain temporary use of it in everyday life but also, and more importantly, to educate the mind and the feelings with our reading of various works in this language and to become acquainted with the spirit of the people whose language we are studying. And which of the Oriental or Western languages in this regard could help our nation more than all the others then Russian, the benefit and quality of which have obliged the educated people of our time to study it, especially Armenians, who see the complete necessity of studying it" ("Poln. sobr. soch." [Complete Collection of Works], Vol 9, supplementary. Yerevan, 1959, p 17).

A factor that has contributed to the development of Armenian-Russian bilingualism at the first stage of its spread was first of all intercourse with persons of Russian nationality. Subsequently, the main factors in the development of bilingualism were the mass information media and a system of education where the Russian language acquired the status of an educational discipline.

Certain achievements of the public educational system and the general impact of developing production, technology and culture resulted in the fact that even in 1970 something like 23.3 percent of the republic's Armenian population (more than 500,000 persons) had a free mastery of the Russian language. It is studied in all the schools, secondary specialized educational institutions and VUZes. There are departments in the republic's 12 VUZes where all instruction is done in the Russian language. Studies are conducted in it for a number of disciplines also in other departments. At Yerevan University and at the pedagogic institutes, specialists are being trained in Russian philology, especially as teachers for the schools.

In the educational institutions and scientific institutions of Armenia research is conducted in the field of Russian linguistics, the comparative study of the Russian and Armenian languages and the sociological analysis of bilingualism. Successes are particularly marked in the field of bilingual lexicography.

Nonetheless the level of Russian language instruction in the educational institutions of our republic still lags behind public requirements. The reasons for this are to be found in inadequate methodological training of instructors, in a shortage here and there of qualified teacher cadres and in defects of educational plans, programs and textbooks and weak use of technical teaching aids.

In order to overcome deficiencies in the teaching of the Russian language, we have carried out a number of significant organizational measures in recent years. At the present time Russian language is being taught in Armenian schools beginning with the first year class; should a class have more than 25 pupils, it is divided into two groups. In all of our VUZes Russian

language studies are conducted in groups in which the number of pupils does not exceed 12-15 persons; at a number of VUZes the number of hours devoted to the study of the Russian language has been increased. New textbooks have been created for schools and secondary specialized educational institutions, and a comprehensive teaching textbook for VUZes is being prepared. Competitions in the Russian language for students and schoolchildren are held on a systematic basis. Scientific-methodical work of VUZ chairs of Russian language has become significantly more active.. A great deal of attention is being paid to upgrading qualifications of scientific-pedagogic cadres at VUZes, Russian-language instructors of special educational institutions and teachers.

In the scientific-methodological office of the Minvuz [Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education] of Armenia, a large film library has been formed, which has more than 27,000 motion-picture films and slides in the Russian language. It is constantly being used by higher and secondary specialized educational institutions regardless of their departmental subordination. The main organizational task of the film library is the coordination, acquisition and distribution of motion-picture documentation.

An important role is being played in improving Russian-language instruction by a special section created under the Scientific-Methodological Office. It coordinates scientific and methodological work at chairs and also organizes exchange of experience—for which purpose a school of young instructors and also republic and zonal conferences have been organized.

The mass information media also provide significant help to Russian-language instructors. Since 1974, television Russian-language lessons have been systematically broadcast; these lessons have been basically made up by VUZ instructors. The journal RUSSKIY YAZYK V ARMYANSKOY SHKOLE [Russian Language in the Armenian School] is published; it does a lot for exchange of experience and dissemination of the best instruction methods.

Furthermore, additional measures have been planned and are being implemented for the improvement of the teaching process and the improvement of instruction and study of the Russian language at higher and secondary educational institutions of the republic. In this year's school year, the number of hours devoted to the Russian language at VUZes has been increased through the use of a reserve of hours left to the discretion of ministries and departments.

It is planned to set up rooms of Russian language and literature in all educational institutions and to equip them with linguaphone equipment and other technical aids. The list of special disciplines read in the Russian language is being expanded. Measures are being taken for the further improvement of the whole system of upgrading the qualifications of instructors.

It would be useful to introduce instruction of the Russian language at preparatory departments using hours that are at the disposal of pedagogic councils. This measure would allow those finishing preparatory departments on

enrolling in a VUZ to listen to lectures on certain special subjects in the Russian language.

The scientific working out of methodological problems can play an important role in improving teaching of the Russian language. The Minvuz (Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education) is organizing in its Scientific-Methodological Office a department and a small laboratory for improvement of the methodology of teaching the Russian language to an Armenian audience. We hope to secure assistance from the Minvuz SSSR (USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education) in solving problems concerning cadres for this laboratory.

It would also be useful to increase the number of special-purpose places for specialists from Armenia in postgraduate work at central VUZes.

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REGIONAL

RUSSIAN, NATIVE LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION IN THE REPUBLICS

Methods of Teaching Russian

Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 10 Jul 79 p 2

[Text] The Vysshaya shkola Publishing House in Moscow has published "Sbornik statey po metodike prepodavaniya russkogo yazyka v vuzakh soyuznykh respublik" [Collection of Articles on Methods of Teaching Russian in Union Republic VUZ's] (first issue). This is an important event. Teachers of Russian in the union and autonomous republic VUZ's now have an opportunity to publish their work in an all-union publication and exchange experience.

The collection, which will be published annually, carries articles collating the results of research into the peculiarities of teaching Russian predominantly in nonlinguistic VUZ's—technical, agricultural, medical and so forth—and also material on problems of improving the theoretical and, particularly, psycholinguistic principles of the instructional procedure and concrete methods and techniques of tuition.

The collection's editorial collegium, which includes representatives of all the republics of the Caucasus and Central Asia and Lithuania and Estonia, offers a broad range of subject matter in articles of relevance to the national VUZ. Works are accepted for publication which study the goals and tasks of instruction, the communicative trend of teaching the language, the role and place of linguistic-theoretical information in a practical course of instruction in the language, methods of intensifying instruction, the quest for the most efficient methods of tuition and so forth.

The collection will devote particular attention to problem connected with instruction in general scientific and narrowly specialized terminology and instruction in the microlanguage of the specialty chosen by the student, which constitutes the principal task of the Russian department in the non-philological VUZ's.

The collection's first issue carries articles whose authors are VUZ instructors in 11 union republics, including the Armenian SSR.

Preparations are currently being completed for the publication of Collection-79. The active participation of research assistants of the Russian departments of our republic's VUZ's to subsequent issues of the collection will be a useful form of the collation of experience and exchange thereof.

Rural Language Teaching

Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 21 Aug 79 p 4

[Text] Hundreds of forms with the concise phrase "Willing To Relocate" bearing the signature of a pedagogical VUZ graduate lie on the desks of dean's offices in institutes. Young teachers express thereon their readiness to work in the countryside. The written pledges remain valid until a degree has been obtained. Then the picture frequently changes abruptly. Last year 105 persons of the Yerevan State Pedagogical Institute of Russian and Foreign Languages imeni V. Ya. Bryusov failed to go to the rayons. This was almost one-fifth of the graduates. They had all at one time agreed to relocate.

Many of the republic's villages wait in vain for teachers with higher education. Currently 78 rural schools do not teach foreign languages, and the column for this subject on the graduates' certificates is struck out....

Why are the young specialists not going to the countryside? What problems arise in resolving this question. KOMMUNIST correspondent S. Geoletstyan met Prof S. Daronyan, doctor of philological sciences and rector of the Yerevan Pedagogical Institute of Russian and Foreign Languages imeni V. Ya. Bryusov, S. Saakyan, chief of the Armenian SSR Ministry of Education Personnel Department, and G. Agaronyan, chief of the Sevenskiy Rayispolkom Public Education Department, and asked them to share their thoughts on the matter.

An Outstanding Debt

The following practice existed a few years ago, Sergey Karpovich Daronyan began his account: the graduate obtained his degree on arrival at his place of work. This practice had useful results. But 3 years ago, following an order from the USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, the degree came to be presented a few days after the state examinations or

the defense of the thesis. Undoubtedly, the ceremonial presentation of one's degree in the VUZ's assembly hall is an event one remembers all one's life. It is a big ethical and moral factor in the nurturing of the young specialist and a form of parting words. But with reference to local conditions not everything is in the ideal state that we would wish. What is needed is a bilateral willingness to go to meet one another half-way, which is lacking from time to time. Every student costs the state R1,000 per year. Thus does a student who has studied for 5 years at the state's expense and who has acquired a profession and qualifications have the right not to do his duty? Yet we have to go in for exhortation. And not always successfully. Moral factors prove inadequate from time to time.

The proposal has been made repeatedly in the press that the degree be presented to the specialist after a year's qualification apprenticeship at his place of work. I consider the proposal correct and opportune. Even now the pedagogical VUZ graduates do a qualification-apprenticeship year under experienced instructors at their place of work after graduating from the institute. After a year the schools' pedagogical councils send our graduates their testimonials. The presentation of the degrees could be timed to coincide with this moment. The formalism in the qualification apprenticeship would then be done away with. The question of whether we have a young specialists or not is essentially settled in a year. It is doubly important, in my opinion, to present the degree after a year has elapsed.

What measures of influence are currently being applied against dishonest graduates? There was a time when the institute resorted to various administrative measures of influence.

Today the institute does not dispose of administrative sanctions against students who have broken the "contract." Last year, for example, graduates were not removed from the Komsomol register prior to their arrival at their place of work. And? Thirty record cards still lie unclaimed in the Komsomol Committee.

We try to enlist the support of the public education organs in the rayons in advance in order that they might pay the maximum attention to the institute's graduates. In the spring, in the assignment period, we invite representatives of the rayon public education departments. Each student of the fifth class appears before an authoritative commission and chooses where it is best for him to go—which rayon center, village or worker settlement most needs our alumni. And frequently the question of work is settled on the spot. In addition, our VUZ is the only one which practices a further custom, which has now become traditional: every year 2 months before graduation from the institute, the dean's office sends each student to the scene of his future job. Here in the village the graduate specifies the school in which he will work and gets to know the director and the teaching staff and ascertains where he will live and under what conditions. These trips are very useful and help the young specialist find his bearings and point out to the appropriate comrades any shortcomings in the provision of housing and so forth.

But, unfortunately, all these measures are still not enough to "bind" the graduate to the countryside.

It is obvious that what is needed is a careful selection in the localities. What does this mean? That as early as May the rayon public education departments receive from the rural schools' pedagogical councils recommendations to the VUZ of a certain contingent of rural youth for noncompetitive admission. Our representatives would then travel to the localities and participate in the selection of applicants for noncompetitive admission.

The institute conducted an interesting experiment last year. Following the example of a number of VUZ's of Rostovskaya Oblast, we organized teacher-training detachments headed by commissars (of the student detachment type). The young teachers in groups of 10-15 went to the rayons and began work in the neighboring villages. The detachment assumed the obligation of enhancing culture in the village and being the instigator of interesting and entertaining occupations. One hundred people settled in the villages as part of the teacher-training detachments. And to their honor not a single one shrank from the difficulties of a routine which was ill provided for and returned to the city. Every instructor, the recently adopted CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers decree "The Further Development of the Higher School and an Increase in the Quality of the Training of Specialists" says, "...must set an example of high communist moral fiber, party-mindedness, a creative attitude toward work and of moral purity and generosity." We are responsible for this.

In the Language of Figures

It is not only a busy time now, it is also a responsible time, Stepan Tigranovich Saakyan said. An examination is being taken for civic maturity, and if we ponder deeply, primarily for the human conscience. The state displays concern for the future specialist, cultivates him and cherishes him. What kind of shoots emerge? What are the returns? Facts are obstinate. Last year 1,914 graduates were sent to the rayons from the republic's pedagogical institutes. Some 1,724 started work. Some 190 failed to show at their appointed place. Of these, 4 were from the Gorieskiy branch of the Armenian Pedagogical Institute, 14 from the Kirovakanskiy and 16 from the Leninakan-skiy pedagogical institutes, 51 from the Armenian Pedagogical Institute imeni Khachatur Abovyan and 105 from the Institute imeni V. Bryusov. Reasons were invented for which the young specialists did not deign to work off their debt to society and to the motherland. This is, I believe, a consequence of inadequate moral training in certain pedagogical institutes. But primarily it is the dishonesty of the young citizens embarking on life.

There is also another aspect of the problem. Even in 1973 there was a shortage of teachers of various specialties with higher education in the rural schools.

Currently the level of teachers with higher education in all specialties is higher in the republic than the average union indicator except for... the specialty of Russian language and literature.

The point is that the majority of the republic's pedagogical institutes admits rural youth, which returns to its own rayons upon graduation. While the Institute imeni Bryusov, which trains specialists in Russian, admits urban (Yerevan) youth, in the main.

This year 201 people acquired the specialty of Russian language and literature, 153 of whom were from Yerevan. There can be no doubt that some people are avoiding work in the countryside by fair means or foul.

What is the answer to this situation?

The institute should find its "own" students and display concern for applicants ahead of time. In Kafan, Kadzharan, Megri, Sisian, Goris, Kalinino and other remote regions where there are Russian high schools it is essential to make a careful selection of the graduates. Representatives of the institute who traveled to the spot would be able to recommend them as applicants.

It is essential to pay more attention to the life and daily routine of the rural teacher. Some 93 teachers' apartments attached to the schools have been built in the past 5 years in the republic. However, there are still instances of most important decisions on this question not being fulfilled. Thus in Idzhevanskiy and Shamshadiniski rayons the teachers often have to pay the difference for a private apartment rented to them by the sovkhos or kolkhoz. Public catering is not very good in the countryside at times.

The New Shift

Much is being done in Sevenskiy Rayon in this aspect, Gamlet Vardanovich Agaronyan continued the discussion. All the teachers have been provided with housing. Some 296 teachers are employed in the rayon, of whom 214 have higher education. The percentage of teachers with degrees is particularly high in Lchashen, Tsovagyukh, Zovaber, Chkalovk, Tsakhkunk and Norashen. Of the total number of teachers, 248 are local and 48 are visiting. The latter have been housed in teachers' homes.

A further six homes for visiting teachers have been built in recent years—in the villages of Zovaber, Tsovagyukh, Tsakhkunk, Gegamavan, Lchashen and Norashen. We can now say that the problem of housing for teachers has been solved here. We would just wish that the architects and planners of the model homes would adapt them to Sevan's climatic conditions. The balconies exposed to the winds are uncomfortable and little used, the rooms are too small, and the public utilities do not correspond to modern requirement. I believe that the planning institutes should reexamine the norms of the designing of homes for teachers of the Sevenskiy Basin.

Last year we employed 34 graduates from various pedagogical VUZ's of the republic: the educationists have become acclimatized here and are working spiritedly in the educational field. The equipment of the study rooms is entrusted entirely to the young teachers. The young educationists are fitting out and decorating the study rooms with vigor and enterprise. A few days ago a rayispolkom session discussed the question of aesthetic education in the schools. The young teachers' work was evaluated positively.

Attention to school problems and the harmonious work of the teacher collectives are bearing good fruit. The pass rate in the rayon is higher than the republic indicator and constitutes 99.2 percent. The local teachers, who acquired their higher education in Yerevan and who then returned to their native villages, have a large share in these results. Tamara, Shushanik and Vachik Pogosyan work in Zovaber: the two sisters and brother graduated from pedagogical institutes and are teaching history, Armenian language and literature and mathematics. It is possible to cite many such examples.

But the need for qualified teachers is growing.

Eighteen graduates are to join us this year. We await them, welcome!

Language's 'International' Role

Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 8 Sep 79 p 2

[Text] Among a number of urgent tasks, the CPSU Central Committee decree "Further Improvement in Ideological and Political Education Work" emphasizes the need to inculcate in all Soviet people a feeling of pride in the socialist fatherland and the indestructible fraternal friendship of the USSR peoples, respect for national dignity and national culture and irreconcilability with all manifestations of nationalism.

Georgia is a multinational republic. And its achievements, as was said at a meeting of the republic's party aktiv on 26 June 1979, must be evaluated as the result of the joint struggle and labor of all the peoples inhabiting Georgia. These are Georgians, Russians and Abkhazi, Osetins and Armenians and Azerbaijanis and Kurds. At the same time a scientifically conceived system of measures and a comprehensive approach to this problem together with the effective realization of Lenin's national policy and the ideas of the international education of the masses are essential. "National relations and the international education of the working people," it was said at the aktiv meeting, "are real, concrete problems and questions and demand the same concrete, real approach to them as to each individual and each member of our society."

How are the Sukhumskiy Gorkom and the city's primary party organizations solving these problems and questions? It is well known that Sukhumi is a multinational city and that representatives of over 90 nationalities live here. They are Abkhazi and Georgians, Russians and Ukrainians, Armenians and Greeks, Estonians and Azerbaijanis and many, many others. At any enterprise, at any construction project--everywhere one sees representatives of almost all the nations and nationalities populating our boundless motherland. For example, representatives of 16 nationalities work at the Leather Footwear Combine imeni S. Ordzhonikidze, of 22 at the taxicab enterprise and of 12 at the "Sukhumpribor" Plant. And it is natural, therefore, that in the comprehensive plan of ideological work formulated by the gorkom in the light of the CPSU Central Committee decree "Further Improvement in Ideological and Political Education Work" a large place is given over to measures directly related to the international education of all strata of the population. This consists of lectures and reports, scientific-theoretical conferences and meetings with literary and art personalities. It is difficult to exaggerate the significance of these measures. For example, a scientific-theoretical conference in the taxicab enterprise was devoted to the theme of socialist internationalism and the sources of the friendship between the Georgian and Abkhaz peoples. A recent city scientific-practical conference discussed certain questions of communist education in the light of the CPSU Central Committee decree "Further Improvement in Ideological and Political Education Work."

The gorkom directs the attention of the primary party organization toward the creation in each collective of an atmosphere wherein a person is valued for his active position in life and his labor contribution to the general cause, strengthening feelings of mutual respect and equality; and moves to the foreground that which is common which unites Soviet people, and not national peculiarities and differences.

Among the manifold forms of this work, a large place is occupied by the activity of the ideological institutes and primarily the creative, cultural educational establishments. We believe that the publication of works of the fraternal literatures, contacts between poets and writers and the working people at enterprises and the place of residence and meetings with the representatives of other rayons and cities represent a big emotional charge in the strengthening of the friendship of the peoples. We encourage to the utmost the work of the primary party organizations of the creative unions and establishments in the organization and presentation of touring concerts, meetings with the working people of other cities and exchange performances.

I would like to give two examples. There was a meeting in Moscow not so long ago in the Palace of Culture of the Plant imeni Likhachev between the plant's collective and B. Shinkub, deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet and people's poet of Abkhazia. People of various ages and occupations unanimously observed in their speeches that familiarity with B. Shinkub's works is enabling them to acquire a more extensive knowledge of the spiritual life of the Abkhaz people and to get a feeling for their distinctive national culture.

At the initiative of the Georgian Composers Union for 3 days this year the working people of Tbilisi, Rustavi and Telavi were acquainted with Abkhazia's musical culture. The performance of the works of Georgian and Abkhaz composers and Georgian and Abkhaz folk songs was a real festival of friendship.

The opening in accordance with a Georgian Communist Party Central Committee decree of the Abkhaz State Drama Theater imeni C. Ya. Chanba and the organization of regular Abkhaz television broadcasts were good prerequisites in the cause of a further improvement in the working people's international and aesthetic education. I should emphasize particularly that these were made possible thanks to the great practical assistance of workers of Georgian television.

The gorkom has recently been paying more attention to the work of the cultural-educational establishments. It is precisely here that the working people and particularly the young people have the opportunity in their spare time to listen to lectures, meet interesting people and see and discuss a new movie. The Teacher's House (P. Kuchuloriya—director), Culture House imeni Gor'kiy (I. Tsargush—director), and the Physician's House (A. Gogua—director) are organizing their work interestingly in this plane. An evening of the city's medical community dedicated to the International Year of the Child enjoyed a big response, for example.

Internationalism, fraternal inter-nation relations and patriotism—these were the main points during discussion of Comrade L. I. Brezhnev's books "Malaya zemlya" [The Small Land], "Vozrozhdeniye" [Rebirth] and "Tselina" [Virgin Land] in the first and second city libraries with the participation of Great Patriotic War veterans and people from the "small land" and also during the celebration of the 75th birthday of the Abkhaz writer Iua Kogoniya and the meeting between Abkhaz writers and the workers of the Leather Footwear Combine imeni S. Ordzhonikidze.

Experience shows that international education requires profound theoretical knowledge and a thoughtful approach at all stages of the formation of a person's world outlook, from the school through the VUZ and the labor collective. For this reason we try not only in the school curricula but also in extramural work to inculcate in the younger generation a love for the literature and culture and heroic revolutionary history of the fraternal peoples, particularly the large and small peoples of the republics of the Caucasus. This end is served by Lenin Classes in the schools, pupil and student scientific societies, labor semesters and student construction detachments and military-patriotic education and international friendship clubs. Lectures and reports are delivered here, there are surveys on questions of the international youth movement and our party's foreign policy and so forth. The activity of these clubs is coordinated by the International Friendship Club under the auspices of the city House of Pioneers. An international student choir has also been created here, incidentally.

The school children are frequently addressed by party, labor and Great Patriotic War veterans. They describe to the young people the coming into being of the Soviet multinational state and the conditions under which the friendship of our country's peoples was born and tempered. The meetings with party veterans M. Mikanba and I. Shchukin, Maj Gen (ret'd) V. Dzambakhidze, Abkhazia's first woman pilot M. Avidzba and many others always arouse the young people's lively interest.

It is well known that the shortest path to the rapprochement of different nationalities lies through linguistic communication. Well aware of this, we aspire to inculcate even in children of preschool and school age an interest in studying the languages of our multinational republic. Thus, for example, in the Fourth and 20th Russian and the First Georgian schools the children study Abkhaz, and in the 10th Abkhaz school they study Georgian....

In the strengthening of international friendship among the young people a big role is undoubtedly assigned the Abkhaz State University imeni S. M. Gor'kiy, which has now begun its first academic year. The teaching staff, the students and all working people of the city and autonomous republic note with great gratitude the truly fraternal assistance of the Tbilisi, Tartu and Leningrad state universities. Thus the Tbilisi State University presented us with a library of 20,000 volumes, and a linguaphone room for the study of foreign languages was equipped with its assistance.

The manifestation of international relations and fraternal friendship is also reflected in the organization of socialist competition between individual brigades, collectives, cities and rayons of our country. It has for many years been a good tradition of the Sukhumi working people to compete with the working people of Batumi and Kirovakan. And although on last year's results Batumi was the winner, our friendship is not the less strong for this. The collectives of the Sukhumi Leather Footwear Combine have been competing for many years with the Kutaisi, Batumi and Tbilisi shoemakers and tanners, as have the Sukhumi longshoremen with their Poti and Batumi colleagues. These collectives understand full well that labor rivalry and friendship represent that invigorating source which infuses people with new forces in the struggle for the successful fulfillment of the production plans and socialist pledges.

At the same time it has to be acknowledged that in our organization of international education there is in certain instances a lack of immediacy, and certain measures are implemented rapidly, without adequate preparation, without the participation of the ideological aktiv and, to be blunt, formally. All this lowers their educative level. We have much to do to enhance the role of the cultural-educational establishments in the business of improving all mass-political work, particularly at the place of residence. The CPSU Central Committee decree "Further Improvement of Ideological and Political Education Work" suggested concrete paths of its improvement and the elimination of existing shortcomings, and we still have many shortcomings, and very serious ones, at that. Eliminating them is our most important task.

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REGIONAL

RELIGIOUS CHAIN-LETTERS CRITICIZED

Threatening Chain-Letters

Moscow KOMSOMOL'SKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 23 Aug 79 p 2

[Text] Greetings, dear editors! On 8 March we celebrated International Womens' Day. This holiday brought so many warm smiles, congratulations and wishes to each home. And also to ours. But along with the cards, a "message" got into the mailbox. It is called a "Holy Letter." Here is what it said: "A twelve-year old boy was sitting on the shore of a river and he saw god. He says: Pass on my letter. It must go around the entire world. One family copied this letter nine times and in nine days something wonderful happened to it, while the other tore it up. It contacted an incurable disease." And further in the "Holy Letter" is malice and jealousy in each word. Whom does a person who dares to call a lie holy, intend to frighten? And does he know what actually is sacred? I am sure that he doesn't. Only he who loves his country, his people, he who is honest and truthful in word and in deed can know the meaning of this word, and not just some fanatic and "brother in Christ." In our country religion is not prohibited if it does not harm the society. But such a "faith" I believe is dangerous. My mother tore up the letter but it can still be read and I am forwarding it to you. Goodbye. Alla Karyaka. Kiev Oblast.

It would be naive to suppose that church-goers and sectarians indifferently look at the decline in the influence of religion in our time and under our conditions. No, they are not idle. Counting on a god who must punish atheists, they themselves are not failing.

The wider and more profoundly scientific atheism spreads, the more desperate and diverse are the attempts made by church-goers in order to save, support and spread their ideology. Manuscript treatises begin to circulate on the essence of the Holy Trinity or on the insignificance of earthly science in comparison with a divine revelation. Then suddenly in the sermon of the religious servant, there appears a citation not only from the Bible, but also from the compositions of several writers or historians who appear to approach

a Christian world outlook. Then beside an old architectural monument a "public-spirited" tour guide appears, who is not on a single tour office list, but who diligently tries to instill the trusting tourists with the idea of the greatness and beauty of Christianity.

The pastors have voluntary helpers who as far as possible spread propaganda about their faith among others. At times church circles are more active in this respect than the church itself. That which the church servants cannot allow themselves is done by those so-called religious "activists." We feel that the distribution of the so-called "holy letters," specific anonymous works with a religious content, is the work of these church circles.

It is difficult to say who composed the original "holy letter" and when it was done. In any case, already for many years the "holy" anonymous works are being circulated. Those receiving these papers react in different ways. Some shrug their shoulders and simply throw them away. Others become indignant and send the "holy letters" to the editors with a demand to take measures.

But there are also those who follow the requests written in the letter, copy the text and send it to various addresses. Who does this and why?

As sad as it may be, those who are caught by this are basically children and school children. All the examples of the "holy letters" that I have at my disposal are written in childish handwritings and primarily with an obvious disregard for all rules of Russian spelling.

A child's soul is impressionable and can fall under any influence both favorable as well as negative. Children are particularly sensitive to all that is mysterious, puzzling and threatening. It has been known for a long time that "fear created the gods." Fear even now supports the faith in the supernatural. What is surprising in the fact that the author of the anonymous "holy letters" decided to use this old idea by accompanying religious feelings? I do not know if he had counted on children, but in the letter there is a reference made about a twelve-year old boy who seemed to have seen a mysterious "person in white" and "Mother of God."

In the words of the two personalities, the "holy letter" places two commonplace religious ideas. First, it instills the idea that one must pray to God and not forget Him. Second it reports that soon the end of the world will come and there will be a terrible judgement. All of this is not new. To honor God is the First Commandment of a believer and it was contained in the ancient part of the Bible. In regards to the terrible judgement, the end of the world and the horrors connected with it, this has been repeated by the church almost two thousand years.

But since these two overstated religious dogmas are in this case being distributed not in the usual way but with the help of anonymous letters, then apparently the author wishes to criticize modern atheism and resort to the threat of a terrible judgement as punishment for atheism.

In accordance with Article 52 of the USSR Constitution, in our country we have the freedom of conscience. Each believer has the right to exercise

his religious faith and carry out its rites. If a believer shares his religious feelings with other believing or non-believing family, friends, acquaintances, then there is nothing strange here. However, when the letters with a religious content are sent to strangers, moreover these letters are of a threatening nature, since they are intended to bring out a mystical fear, then here, probably, it is fair to perceive not only the lack of morality but also the apparent transgression of the norms in our lives.

Actually, what is the essence of a "holy letter"? Its goal is expressed in the definite demand to copy the letter nine times and send it to nine different addresses. The request is accompanied by an open threat: those who do not carry it out will receive from God, of course, a tremendous sorrow, for example, an incurable disease. The essence of religious morality which is based on blind fear is here openly expressed.

And a child, particularly an impressionable one, begins to experience a dark fear and finally sits down at the table and with an insecure childish handwriting begins to copy the "holy letter." Then he drops nine letters into the mailbox. Of course, not every child does this and maybe at the second stage there will be not 81 letters but say only 18 incidences of evil attempts to poison children's souls with religious opium.

I spoke with one girl who copied a "holy letter." She does not believe in God nor do her family and friends. She interrupted the letter as a game, and what is a game without mystery? Without saying anything to anyone, she thought: "This, of course, is ridiculous and I don't believe in it a bit. But what if something happens? It is nothing for me to copy the letter, no one knows about it and I will feel better." I feel that in all the other cases the situation was about the same.

The "holy letter" is crudely done. It is crude and clumsy. In comparison with it even the most absurd stories on the "wonders of God" seem to be masterpieces of religious literature. At one time jesuitical people were guided by the shamefully well-known slogan "the end justifies the means." So, whatever the end is, so is the means. An honorable goal cannot be attained using unworthy means.

The "holy letter" is a document of militant fanaticism. And though it is composed scandalously without grammar and talent, it still adequately expresses the characteristic traits of the latent activity of obscurantists. And if one were to attempt to give it a short characteristic, then the most appropriate would be: religion through invasion. G. Gabinskiy, Doctor of Philosophical Sciences, Professor. Orel.

New Anonymous Letters

Moscow SBL'SKAYA ZHIZN' in Russian 15 Aug 79 p 4

[Text] Dear editors! Please answer my letter. Could you tell me, please, who is distributing the religious letters? They usually come to people who are older and from whom it is unknown.

"If you copy this letter nine times and send it to friends," says a letter which came to our family, "then you will receive a blessing from God and the Holy Virgin. But if you do not do this, then in three days a terrible misfortune and an incurable disease will befall you. Christ punishes you." What is this—a joke? It doesn't look like one. And can one joke this way, so cruelly and rudely, using fear? I would like to know who is increasing the number of these "messages"? Lyuba Yevgrafova. Yermakovo. Yaroslavl'skaya Oblast.

Several "holy" letters are in front of me. They were sent to us by readers of *SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN'*, such as Lyuba Yevgrafova who were troubled by the messages of the mysterious anonymous letters.

Lyuba Pleshakova, a 10th grader at the Pozdneyevskaya High School of the Veselovskiy Rayon of the Rostovskaya Oblast writes: "A letter came to my mother which greatly troubled me. The letter was ungrammatical and was written in a poor handwriting. Even my 76-year old grandmother mistrusted the words of the unexpected "voice of God": 'Some kind of nonsense!' But nevertheless she recommended ('farther away from sin!') that the letter should be sent to some farm workers.

I do not criticize my grandmother. She is an old person, somewhat superstitious and here is such a threat: terrible sorrow and an incurable disease. And yet I disobeyed and tore up this dirty sheet of paper. One cannot indulge in nonsense, even "holy" nonsense."

That is true. Lyuba, it is not advisable to indulge in nonsense. Especially the kind about which the so-called "holy" letter makes "prophecies." However, let's return to its content and let us see what it talks about.

Some boy on the seashore (which one exactly it is not defined) saw a decrepit old man in a shining chasuble. The old man identifies himself: he was God about whose existence people are forgetting. The day of the terrible judgment is approaching. God, will have mercy on those who will pray and give them heaven. Those who disobey will be cruelly punished.

God offers almost each of his "servants" an "indulgence" (forgiving of sins). But under the condition: within the course of three days to copy the "holy" letter and send it to nine addresses. The reward is great happiness. In the event of disobedience it is cruel punishment.

Let us notice that the "story" with the "holy" letter is not at all harmless, but with a bad diversionary ideological core.

These are the sources for its appearance. After the victory of the Great October Socialist Revolution, millions of workers who became masters of their country decisively turned towards education. A mass withdrawal of the people from religion began. Then those frightened by what was happening the zealous advocates of the faith composed a "holy" letter. The goal was to try to save the flock and rekindle the dying feelings of the believers by using promises and threats.

Let us look at some details. The "holy" letter is about 60 years old. During these decades the soviet people have built socialism. They survived and overcame the terrible fight with Hitler Fascism and defending the honor of their homeland, freed the people of Europe from the "brown plague." They overcame the force of gravity and boldly stepped into space.

The content of the letter is stubbornly and hopelessly "given life" by the religious fanatic and it is the same. The events which transformed nations and continents literally did not notice the advocates of religion.

Three years ago SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' published material under the title "Holy Blackmail." The subject was about the same anonymous messages. And so what? So-called soothsayers grew quiet for a while. And now again they began to operate.

In regards to this we would like to acquaint our readers with one letter which astounds us with its tragedy. S. S. Zakharov from a village in the Strel'yazhskiy Rayon of the Gor'kovskaya Oblast sent it to our editors. "Twice I received 'holy' letters and both times, no matter what they required, I copied them and sent them to various places," he reported. "It seems I should have found great happiness, but I encountered only great sorrow. My wife and I contacted the flu. She did not want to go to the doctors—after all, in the 'holy' letter which we copied many times, we were promised happiness. And she died. I was sent to the hospital unconscious, they quickly did a blood transfusion, rendered other assistance and saved me. But how bitter it is for me now alone, an orphan by my own stupidity. For my Yuliya Yakovlevna could be alive. I am asking the editors to tell everyone of my sorrow who still believes in the 'holy' letters."

El'za Ivanovna Shefer who is a resident in the village of Orlovka in the Kirgiz SSR is also elderly. Behind her is a life that was not easy and which had many difficult setbacks. During the war El'za Ivanovna lost her brother, sister, and father. Too little fragments were left from her sister and El'za Ivanovna replaced their mother. She writes "The sorrow engulfed us and was enough for several lifetimes. And here I receive a 'holy' letter. The sinister ultimatum 'of God' terrified me. 'If in the course of three days you do not copy this letter nine times, then...', I read and my heart grew cold and stopped."

No, her first thoughts were not about herself, but about the children and her old mother. Alarmed she began to rush about the house and started to search for ink and paper. She grew calm only after all nine letters were sent off.

"This was in April," remembers El'za Ivanovna, "and in May my mother died. Here is how God rewarded me for my efforts! Since that time I do not believe in God or in the 'holy' letters."

Yelizaveta Petrovna Bakina lives in the village called Apollonovka of the Inzhavinskiy Rayon of the Tambovskaya Oblast. She is on a pension and raises flowers. They know her as a skillful flower breeder not only in the oblast

but also far beyond her area. Naturally, many write to her and turn to her with different questions. She is a kind and sympathetic person. Yelizaveta Petrovna does not leave a single letter unanswered and tries to help each person: work advice for some and seeds for others. But she decided to answer one letter (it did not have a return address) through our newspaper.

"Two days ago," Yelizaveta Petrovna tells, "I received a 'holy' letter and I want to tell everyone what I believe about it. In my opinion, the 'holy' anonymous letters are found somewhere in our rayon village of Inzhavina (this I judge by the postmark). Their letter is not very intelligent. It tells that on the seashore God appeared to a twenty-year old boy. What kind of boy is this?! It's time he were married!

The 'holy' letter is suppose to circulate around the entire world. Here I decided: instead of spending time and copying the 'holy' letter, it is better to do it this way, through the paper and tell about it. Let everyone know that God's work is not going well if people are frightened by his name. Please, publish my letter. Let others not spend any ink or paper on copying this nonsense.

In 'God's' message I was promised a great happiness for obeying God. It is interesting: what kind? Perhaps I'll win 'Volga' in a lottery or I'll grow younger? Perhaps I'll be lucky with the 'Volga' but youth and the years which have passed no one can return to me. I was threatened with various disasters for disobeying 'God.' But what should I be afraid of? I am an old person, sick and had become ill even before receiving the 'holy' letter. The letter says: 'The day of the terrible judgement is approaching. Therefore pray that there will be no catastrophe and that mankind will not perish.' So what is the result? We do not have to struggle for peace but only pray for it? We are old people and have seen a thing or two in our time and we know well that one must fight for peace. Is it possible that whoever wrote the 'holy' letter has forgotten? Did he really forget what a 'divine' slogan the fascists used when they attacked us in 1941? I can remind him. 'Got mit uns' ("God is with us"). And what did these monsters do with 'God's' help! Innocent people--women, the elderly, children--were killed, tortured, hung, burned, gassed, and buried alive in the ground. Imagine what would have become of us if we had put down our weapons and only prayed...."

It was well said. Thank you, Yelizaveta Petrovna, for your intelligent letter which was written from the lofty position of a citizen. Thank you, also to you Lyuba and Luyda. You acted correctly having given the proper reproof to the newly arrived "holy" anonymous letters. We also thank you, Honorable El'za Ivanovna and S. S. Zakharov (unfortunately you did not indicate your name and patronymic), for the kind and sincere stories about your life. We feel that many readers of SEL'SKAYA ZHIZN' will read your letters with interest and will be able to evaluate "holy" anonymous letters properly. B. Polyakov.

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REGIONAL

BRIEFS

DUSHANBE POPULATION REACHES 500,000--This August day of 1979 was a significant one for Dushanbe. Early on the morning of the 22d in maternity home No 2 was born the 500,000th inhabitant of the capital of Tadzhikistan. [Text]
[Dushanbe KOMMUNIST TADZHIKISTANA in Russian 24 Aug 79 p 1]

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